UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/838,342	04/20/2001	Akihiro Sugiyama	Q64164	1068

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EXAMINER
FLEURANTIN, JEAN B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2172	9

DATE MAILED: 05/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Office Action Summary</td><td>Application No.
09/838,342</td><td>Applicant(s)
SUGIYAMA, AKIHIRO</td></tr>
<tr><td>Examiner
Jean B Fleurantin</td><td>Art Unit
2172</td></tr>
</table>

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _18 February 2004 RCE_.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-21_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-21_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date _6_.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in

37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is

eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e)

has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to

37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on February 18, 2004 has been entered, in which

claims 1-21 remain pending for examination.

Information Disclosure Statement

2.   The information disclosure statement (IDS) filed December 11, 2003 (Paper No. 6)

complies with the provisions of MPEP § 609. It has been placed in the application file. The

information referred to therein has not been considered as to the merits (see attached form).

Remarks

3.   Applicant's argument on page 14, with respect to claims 1-21 have been fully considered

but, have been found persuasive only to the extent that the prior of record does not specifically

teach or suggest the limitations "the specification information received from each company

specifying at least one data item required for user registration." However, JP '996 reference

discloses such limitations.

MPEP 2111 Claim Interpretation; Broadest Reasonable Interpretation

During patent examination, the pending claims must be "given the broadest reasonable

interpretation consistent with the specification" Applicant always has the opportunity to amend

the claims during prosecussion and broad interpretation by the examiner reduces the possibility

that the claim, once issued, will be interpreted more broadly than is justified. In re Prater, 162

USPQ 541,550-51 (CCPA 1969). The court found that applicant was advocating ... the

impermissible importation of subject matter from the specification into the claim. See also In re

Morris, 127 F.3d 1048, 1054-55, 44 USPQ2d 1023, 1027-28 (Fed. Cir. 1997) (The court held

that the PTO is not required, in the course of prosecution, to interpret claims in applications in

the same manner as a court would interpret claims in an infringement suit. Rather, the "PTO

applies to verbiage of the proposed claims the broadest reasonable meaning of the words in their

ordinary usage as they would be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art, taking into

account whatever enlightenment by way of definition or otherwise that may be afforded by the

written description contained in application's specification.").

The broadest reasonable interpretation of the claims must also be consistent with the

interpretation that those skilled in the art would reach. In re Cortright, 165 F.3d 1353, 1359, 49

USPQ2d 1464, 1468 (Fed. Cir. 1999).

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent

No. 6,151,707 issued to Hecksel et al. (hereinafter "Hecksel") in view of JP Patent No. 10-

301996 issued to Call (hereinafter "JP '996").

As per claims 1 and 11, Hecksel discloses a user registration supporting system which

supports a user, who uses a multi-component product including a plurality of products provided

by a plurality of companies, in applying for user registration for the plurality of products (see col.

1, lines 12-20 and col. 1, line 66 to col. 2, line 6), "said system comprises a user-information

database which stores user information including a plurality of data items and regarding the user"

as registration software program may access a memory in the form of any volatile or non-volatile

storage and retrieval device on computer, memory may include a variety of registration

information and instructions to assist in operation of registration software program, throughout

this document, the term "registration information" refers to any information relating to

characteristics of the user, characteristics of system, usage statistics, responses to previous

requests for user data, answers to survey questions, registration profile data, (see col. 4, lines 3-

12);

"a user-information providing section which provides said user-information database with the user information" as a means for modifying registration information associated with a particular software program, which presenting the user with survey questions or marketing information associated with software program, collecting statistics relating to the use of software program" (see col. 4, lines 22-26); and

"a to-be-registered information generating section which receives specification information for specifying the at least one data item required by a plurality of companies for the user registration from a plurality of company terminals which are connected through a network and used by the respective companies, extracts at least one data item specified by the specification information, from the user information stored in said user-information database, and generates to-be-registered information used by each of the plurality of companies for the user registration," as means for accessing previously stored registration information to assist a user in a current software program registration, (see col. 2, lines 24-26), and

"wherein said system can generate the to-be-registered information for the plurality of companies at once, based on the user information" as system may generate the chronology table as it processes session data, or the chronology table may have been previously created and stored in registration profile during initial registration of software program (34a), (see col. 13, lines 27-31). Hecksel does not explicitly disclose a to-be-registered information generating section which receives specification information from a plurality of companies from a plurality of company terminals which are connected through a network and used by the respective companies, the specification information received from each company specifying at least one data item required for user registration. However, JP '996 discloses registration/reference tool (15) for users build

into the interior of this software will be installed, and a user (10) will be used for activity

registration of software (14a) if it is going to installed (A) software 14(a), and the registration

information about software are stored in the master database (17) inside the user registration

center (13) through a network (12), (page 2, [0017] to page 3, [0020]; and a user registration is

required and it is also required to grasp a user' utilization situation, the information as which the

user was required is written down in the postcard attached to each product in the user registration

of the software as such a computer related product, moreover even when it is registration of the

product with which the online registration method is used, it is a different format for every

provider of a product and it is required to input similar information each time, (see page 1,

[0002], [0003] and [0004]). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at

the time the invention was made to modify the combined teachings of Hecksel and JP '996 with

a to-be-registered information generating section which receives specification information from a

plurality of companies from a plurality of company terminals which are connected through a

network and used by the respective companies, the specification information received from each

company specifying at least one data item required for user registration. Such modification

would allow the teachings of Hecksel and JP '996 to provide the cost of user registration

operation and user service operation can be reduced, (see JP '996, page 9, [0074]).

As per claim 2, in addition to claim 1, Hecksel further discloses "a company information

database which stores specification information" as the content of registration information

maintained in memory (26), (see col. 7, lines 46-60).

As per claims 3 and 13, Hecksel further discloses, "comprising a user registration section

which registers the to-be-registered information for each of the plurality of companies" as

software application that assists users in registering various software programs (34) with their

respective publishers "companies", (see col. 4, lines 54-56), and col. 3, lines 35-42.

As per claims 4 and 12, the limitations of claims 4 and 12 are rejected in the analysis of

claim 1, and these claims are rejected on that basis.

As per claims 5, 6, 15 and 16, in addition to the discussion in claim 1, Hecksel further

discloses "wherein said user information includes identification information for identifying the

multi-component product used by the user" as the method includes a section (300) "figure 3a" to

generate a list of software programs residing on, or accessible to computer (11), a section (350)

"figure 3b" to identify a matching software program, and a section (380) "figure 3c" to complete

the registration session based on information associated with the matching software program,

(see col. 9, lines 30-36);

"said company-information database stores information regarding the plurality of

companies providing the products according to multi-component product", (see col. 7, line 6 to

col. 8, line 12).

As per claims 7, in addition to claim 1, Hecksel further discloses "sends the to-be-

registered information generated by said to-be-registered information generating section to each

of the company terminals" as the software registration system automatically generates a list of

available communication methods for presentation to the user, (see col. 3, lines 2-15).

As per claim 8, in addition to claim 1, Hecksel further discloses "a user- information

providing section provides said user-information database with the user information which is

received by said communication" as remote server that receives, stores and distributes

information among a variety of remote devices, (see col. 5, lines 3-8).

As per claims 9 and 19, in addition to claim 1, Hecksel further discloses, "wherein the user information is correction information which is formed by correcting the user information stored in said user-information database" as post-registration activity periods may be stored in configuration files to promote modification of registration and marketing data as updates become necessary without requiring modification to the registration software program, (see col. 2, lines 62-65).

As per claim 10, the limitations of claim 10 are rejected in the analysis of claims 1 and 8, and this claim is rejected on that basis.

As per claim 14, in addition to claim 1, Hecksel further discloses, "wherein said generating includes detecting that new user information is stored in a user-information database, and generating to-be-registered information from the new user information" as the software registration system automatically generates a list of available communication methods for presentation to the user, (see col. 3, lines 2-15).

As per claim 17, Hecksel discloses the claimed subject matter except the claimed sending the to-be-registered information which is generated by said generating to a plurality of company terminals which are used respectively by the plurality of companies providing the products, through a network. However, JP '996 discloses registration/reference tool (15) for users build into the interior of this software will be installed, and a user (10) will be used for activity registration of software (14a) if it is going to installed (A) software 14(a), and the registration information about software are stored in the master database (17) inside the user registration center (13) through a network (12), (page 2, [0017] to page 3, [0020]. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the

combined teachings of Hecksel and JP '996 with sending the to-be-registered information which

is generated by said generating to a plurality of company terminals which are used respectively

by the plurality of companies providing the products, through a network. Such modification

would allow the teachings of Hecksel and JP '996 to provide the cost of user registration

operation and user service operation can be reduced, (see JP '996, page 9, [0074]).

As per claim 18, in addition to claim 17, Hecksel further discloses "wherein said storing

includes providing the user-information database with the user information which is received by

said receiving", (see col. 5, lines 36-42).

As per claim 20, the limitations of claim 20 are rejected in the analysis of claims 1 and 7,

and this claim is rejected on that basis.

As per claim 21, in addition to claim 1, Hecksel discloses a computer readable recording

medium which records a program for controlling a computer to execute (see col. 2, lines 24-27),

"storing user information including a plurality of data items regarding a user who uses a

multi-component product including a plurality of products provided by a plurality of companies"

as the selected registration information includes registration information and/or responses to

survey questions provided by a user or otherwise obtained during a previous registration session

for a matching software program, designated by the reference numeral (34n), software programs

(34) are considered matching if they share a common attribute, such as the user, the publisher

"company" of the software program or common registration information, the term "publisher"

refers to the technology provider, software publisher, information gatherer, company, or other

entity having an interest in distributing, collecting, maintaining, and utilizing registration and/or

marketing information related to software program (34), (see col. 5, lines 29-42); and

"extracting a data item specified by the specification information, from the stored user

information" as means for retrieving selected registration information stored in previous

registration file (28) within memory (26) (see col. 5, lines 26-33), and "generating

to-be-registered information used by each of the plurality of companies for the user registration"

as a system and method for accessing previously stored registration information to assist a user

in a current software program registration, (see col. 2, lines 24-26).

Prior Art

5.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's

disclosure.

        Jayasimha et al. US Patent 6,564,377 relates to method and apparatus for providing

system registration information installed within a software catalog of a computing system.

        [remainder of page intentionally left blank]

CONTACT INFORMATION

6.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the
examiner should be directed to Jean B Fleurantin whose telephone number is 703-308-6718.
The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's
supervisor, John B Breene can be reached on 703-305-9790. The fax phone number for the
organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent
Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications
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system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jean Bolte Fleurantin

April 20, 2004

SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER